

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/087 W

-----261321Z 124630 /45

R 251834Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0705

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2416

USUN FOR LOWENSTEIN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: SHUM, PO

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: THREE RESOLUTIONS BY ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) LISBON 834 (DTG 311802Z JAN 77), (B) LISBON 1981 (DTG
111740Z MAR 77), (C) LISBON 2066 (DTG 151802Z MAR 77),
(D) LISBON 2234 (DTG 211209Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS MOTIONS PASSED ON MAR 24 IN THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC EXPRESSED SORROW AT THE DEATH
OF CZECH DISSIDENT JAN PATOCKA; CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT
TO PRESS FOR AN INSTITUTIONALIZED BODY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF
HELSINKI ACCORDS TO OVERSEE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS; AND
CONDEMNED THE ILLEGALIZATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
PARTY BY CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. PS LEADER JAIME GAMA
TOLD AMBASSADOR MAR 25 THAT ASSEMBLY WILL BE TAKING FURTHER
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MEASURES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
REPUBLIC IN ITS MAR 24 SESSION PASSED MOTIONS CONDEMNING
CZECH AND CHILEAN REPRESSION AND CALLING FOR INSTITUTIONALIZED
OVERSIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
HELSINKI ACCORDS. PS, PSD, AND CDS VOTED IN FAVOR OF

ALL THREE MOTIONS; PCP VOTED ONLY IN FAVOR OF CHILEAN CONDEMNATION AND OPPOSED OTHERS.

2. JAN PATOCKA: THE FIRST MOTION, INTRODUCED BY THE SOCIALISTS, STATED THAT ASSEMBLY "SOLEMNLY PROTESTS AGAINST REPEATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ... IN CZECHOSLAVAKIA" AND "BOWS ITS HEAD TO THE MEMORY OF PROF. JAN PATOCKA, FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS." THE MOTION BLAMED "POLICE PRESSURE" FOR PATOCKA'S DEATH AND RECALLED THE EARLIER ASSEMBLY CONDEMNATION OF CZECH REPRESSION (REF A).

3. INSTITUTIONALIZED OVERSIGHT: THE SECOND MOTION, INTRODUCED BY THE CENTER DEMOCRATS AND ADOPTED AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE PATOCKA RESOLUTION, READS AS FOLLOWS: THE ASSEMBLY "RECOMMENDS TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT ADOPT THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, AND THAT IT PUSH FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION, WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, OF A COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION SO AS TO STOP THE CONTINUOUS, INTOLERABLE, AND UNINHIBITED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH CONTRAVENE THE FINAL ACT."

4. CHILEAN REPRESSION: IN THE THIRD RESOLUTION, ALSO INTRODUCED BY THE CDS, THE ASSEMBLY NOTED THE RECENT OUTLAWING OF THE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND CONDEMNED "WITH VEHEMENCE THIS ARBITRARY TOTALITARIAN ACTION."

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5. PCP STAND: THE PCP CLAIMED SUCH MOTIONS COULD BE EASILY MANIPULATED BY "ANTI-DEMOCRATIC AND IMPERIALIST" FORCES, DID NOT ADD TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND WORKED AGAINST THE GOALS OF DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

6. PS LEADER COMMENTS: VICE-LEADER OF SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP JAIME GAMA TOLD AMBASSADOR MAR 25 THAT A COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS BEING ORGANIZED IN THE ASSEMBLY. PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO HAS SUGGESTED THAT IT BE NAMED THE JAN PATOCKA COMMITTEE. THE SOCIALISTS, SAID GAMA, SEE THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AS A "WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY" BECAUSE:

-- THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, HAVING OVERTHROWN OR AVOIDED DICTATORSHIPS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, HAVE THE CREDIBILITY TO SPEAK OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS;

-- NOW THAT THE U.S. IS OUT OF VIETNAM AND WESTERN EUROPE IS DEMOCRATIC OR MOVING TOWARDS DEMOCRACY BOTH CAN SPEAK OUT WITH MORAL AUTHORITY:

-- PORTUGAL DOES NOT BORDER ON THE SOVIET UNION;
-- EVERYTIME THE PS SPEAKS OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IT IS
"TAKING A CRACK AT CUNHAL."

7. COORDINATION: WHEN AMBASSADOR TOLD GAMA OF HIS MAR 24
MEETING WITH LEADERS OF PORTUGUESE BAR ASSOCIATION AND LEAGUE
FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, GAMA SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH
WITH THEM TO COORDINATE FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES.

8. COMMENT: THE THREE RESOLUTIONS ARE ANOTHER INDICATION
OF THE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE OF PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIC
PARTIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS (REFS B,C,D).
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